

Comprehensive Introduction to Art
Course Description/Expectations/Overall Syllabus

Mrs. Kearney

Comprehensive Introduction to Art is the basic first-year course in Fine Arts and introduces students to fundamental two- and three-dimensional visual art knowledge, techniques, and media, with related Art History and critique.

The essential questions and objectives for the year are “What is Art?” and “How can we use the formal visual art elements of line, shape, color, texture, value and form to interpret what we see into different types of art?”

Students are introduced to the artistic process and the fundamental concepts and elements of art and design such as line, shape, color, value, form, and texture.

Students are also introduced to the tools and principles of Artistic Composition such as balance, repetition, unity, emphasis, and dominance.

Various art media (materials) and techniques (processes) are explored including pencil, charcoal, marker, chalk and oil pastels, tempera paint, and watercolor. Other methods in printmaking, graphic design, and sculpture will be explored if time and supplies permit. A majority of emphasis of this course is placed on observational drawing proficiency as well as the introduction to the artistic process and creative and critical thinking.

Project assignments are often inspired by various periods, movements, and artists throughout history. Students will be exposed to art movements and artists’ work as a background for projects and to help formulate ideas and processes for their own work.

Most importantly, students will learn to develop their aesthetic sense of perception and critical thinking skills in addition to the physical act of creating their own unique works of art.

Units, Lessons, Themes

Units and lessons vary year to year and in varied order and may include:

Symbolic Self Portraits
Introduction to Art Elements
Observational Drawing/Contour Drawing – observational development
Abstraction in Line, Shape & Color
Use of Pattern & Repetition
Pen & Ink – detailed drawing
Ink & brush painting
Watercolor painting techniques
Collage
Portrait Drawing – features of the face
Landscape themes
Still Life composition
Introductory Printmaking
3D techniques
Linear Perspective

Sketchbooks, Notebooks

All art students are required to purchase or construct a personal sketchbook. Students will also often be asked to keep notes on vocabulary, process directions, artists and other information. These notes can be kept in the sketchbook or in a separate notebook.

Grading/Assessment

Assessment in the art classroom reflects many elements. Rubrics are used with objective criteria laid out for each assignment including sequencing and the following of directions, successful and differentiated solutions to the problems posed, proper use of materials and techniques, specific skill and compositional development, time management and focus on task.

Students should also realize that daily attendance and attentiveness, effort, cooperation, willingness to experiment, use of imagination, and goals of personal improvement are valued as much as the actual artwork produced.

As part of the growth experience the teacher and student will discuss and evaluate the students' work together during the process of its creation. Class critiques often take place either at the end or during the process of many assignments. Suggestions and time will be made for improvement and enhancement of the work. Students are encouraged to self-evaluate and are encouraged to participate in group evaluations and critiques.

Individual Project Grades

Every project assigned will include a "problem" to be solved or a specific number of criteria to be met. Creativity and individual expression is definitely encouraged as long as the criteria is met or expanded upon.

Rubrics will be used to define specific points assigned to specific criteria.

If no specific rubric is used, projects will be graded using the general percentage rubric below:

Quality of work (includes time and effort spent on projects in class)	0 – 40%
Completion of work in a timely manner	0 – 10%
How well the criteria is met or problem is solved	0 – 40%
Advanced or extraordinary accomplishments (beyond expectation)	<u>0 – 10%</u>
Total possible project grade	0 – 100%

Completion of Work

Students must be on task in the art room and are expected to keep up with the daily work and assignments.

Students who need more time on work beyond the project deadlines must make time after school or at home to finish required work.

Students will not be excused from assignments because of absence (other than for extenuating circumstances). **It is always the student's responsibility to consult with the teacher to see what work they have missed during an absence and need to make up.** Work must then be made up in class if possible, or on the student's own time –at home or when time permits between other assignments. The regular school policies apply in the art courses to attendance, suspension, and tardiness.

Homework

Occasionally homework may be assigned. This could mean sketchbook or other drawing assignments, gathering materials or supplies for in-class projects, research on artists, or the completion of in-class projects that are "behind" or late.

Exams, Quizzes, Reflective Writing, Art History Assignments

Midterm and Final Exams will be given in all Art classes. Exams are a requirement of WHS. They are graded and weighted in accordance with the WHS policy for exams and grading.

The content of the exams will include questions and reflections on vocabulary, processes, techniques, related art history and personal art making.

Occasional quizzes may be given to help prepare for exams.

Throughout the terms **reflective writing** pertaining to specific assignments will be given to complete the artistic process. The process of making Art encompasses many things including learning about materials, learning techniques & processes, acquiring skills, developing critical thinking and finding ways of creative self-expression. Students should be able to reflect upon, understand and describe the many factors of the art-making process.

All assigned writing and quizzes may receive a grade in weight and percentage equal to project grades.

Final Note

Students must treat their art classes seriously - as they would any other course. The Arts are considered Core courses by the Massachusetts Department of Education and are weighted the same as other academic subjects. Visual Art is taught from a comprehensive curriculum that closely follows both the state and national standards for Art Education.

The ultimate goal of the WHS Art Department is to aid in the development of skillful, perceptive, knowledgeable, creative and critical thinkers and/or future artists for life in today's world.